



T H E
C A S E

Of the P A R I S H of

St JAMES's Westminster;

As to their **P O O R,**

And a **W O R K - H O U S E** designed to be built for
Employing them.



THIS Parish having now at Weekly and Monthly Allowances, one thousand poor Persons, or thereabouts, of different Ages; and the Number of them having very considerably increased within these few Years, notwithstanding all the Care that has been taken to prevent it; and the neighbouring Parishes having entred into Measures for building Work-houses for their Poor; there is great Reason to apprehend, that the Poor in this Parish will still go on increasing, and, in consequence thereof, the Expence; which already amounts to above Four Thousand pounds a Year. A State of the Poor, with their respective Circumstances, and the Charge attending them, upon the exactest Calculation that can be made, is as follows;

Tearly

Yearly Charges.

	<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Persons upon the Pension Book, most of them Aged.	1500	0	0
300 Children, whose Parents are dead, or run away.	1200	0	0
30 Sick at Parish Nurses.	520	0	0
200 Casual Poor.	500	0	0
Incident Charges, as Coffins for the Poor, Cloaths for the Hospitals, Surgeons and Apothecaries Bills, Cloathing the casual Poor, Clerks and Messengers Salaries, &c.			
	350	0	0
1030	4070	0	0

This being the present State of the Parish with respect to their Poor, and the Parish being possessed of a piece of Ground sufficient for a Workhouse as well as for a Burying-place; and the Vestry having received and examined a Proposal lately made to them for employing the Able, and Maintaining the Impotent Poor, in a regular and proper Manner; They find great Reason to approve thereof, as well from the Nature of it, as from the undoubted Proof, which has been given by Certificates and otherwise, of the Success in several Parishes.

But in order to execute this Scheme, There is a Necessity of Building a large House, or Houses, and several Offices (which may be sufficient for Receiving, Lodging, and Employing the Poor,) as also of Buying a great Number of Beds, Household-Utensils, Materials and Stock for setting them to Work. And the Charge of this, considering the Number of our Poor, can't, as is presum'd, amount to less than 3000*l.* Which, considering the Circumstances of the meaner Tradesmen and Housekeepers, and the Load of the present Taxes upon them, who are by far the most numerous Part of the Parish, cannot conveniently be rais'd, but by voluntary Contribution from the Rich and Able.

The

The Method propos'd; is this. A large House, or Houses, must be built by the Parish, sufficient for the Reception of all such Poor as are reliev'd (instead of letting them lodge separately, or where they please, as they now do,) where they are to be as one Family, supply'd with Meat, Drink, and Lodging, and employ'd in such Work as they are capable of; also cloathed where wanting, and lodg'd in a cleanly Manner, and the Produce of their Labour sold for the Benefit of the Parish, and proper Work will be found for all above Five Years of Age.

By this Method all the Poor Children now kept at Parish Nurseries, instead of being starv'd or misus'd by them, as is so much complain'd of, will be duly taken Care of, and be bred up to Labour and Industry, Vertue and Religion, and thereby the infinite Mischiefs proceeding from Idleness and want of Employment, will be prevented.

The Lazy grown Poor, will be compell'd to work according to their Abilities, and not be suffer'd to live as they now do, in an Idle, and too often in a vitious Course, upon the Alms of the Parish; rais'd, in great Part, out of the Labour and Industry of the honest Housekeepers.

Those who, by Age or Infirmities, are wholly incapable of Work or Labour, will be provided for and maintain'd in a regular and comfortable Manner.

Many of the Abuses and Mis-applications of private Charity, as well as of Parish Money, will be prevented; which is now in most places given to improper Objects, and vitiously consum'd in *Geneva*, or other strong Liquors, to the Ruin of their Healths, and often of their Children; And this cannot wholly be avoided, where the Poor are permitted to spend what is given them, when and where they think fit.

The Advantages to the Parish will also in all probability be very considerable, as the Profit of all their Labour will be for the Account of the Parish, and go in Ease of the Charge of maintaining them; But the chief Advantages to the Parish, will be these.

1st. That none will apply for Relief, but the truly Indigent and Necessitous; since the Lazy, Idle and Vitious, must then know that they can have no Relief, unless they will go to the Work House, there to work for the Benefit of the Parish as many Hours in the Day, as would keep them, if employ'd in working for themselves.

2^{dly}. One principal Cause of the Increase of our Poor, is, That great Numbers of idle People come out of the Country, or from other Parishes into this, and, by continuing here, become at length chargeable; Whereas the Terror of a Work House has been every where

where found so great, as to drive all idle Poor out, instead of inviting others to come in, to any Place where they are sure to be put to hard Labour.

3dly. The Nufance of Beggars will, by the natural Consequence of this Method, be intirely remov'd and suppress'd.

4^{thly}. As the Poor, and the Charge of keeping them in the Old Method, are continually increasing, it will be impossible to avoid raising the Poors Rate higher, (tho' already very high,) if this or some other Method be not pursued to prevent it.

For these Reasons, this Affair is recommended in the most earnest Manner by the Vestry and Others. And 'tis hop'd, that upon so extraordinary an Occasion, the Nobility, Gentry, and other rich Inhabitants, will contribute cheerfully and liberally toward beginning and carrying on so good a Work, and which naturally tends to promote Industry, Vertue and Religion, where most wanted; the Benefit of our Poor, and the Welfare of the Parish.

A List of the Benefactors, and the respective Sums contributed, will be preserved and hung up in the Work House.

FINIS.

the chief Advantages to the Parish of the whole.

17. That none will apply for Relief, but the truly Indigent and necessitous; since the Lark, Idem and Virtuous, must then know that they can have no Relief, unless they will go to the Work House, there to work for their support, and not receive it from the Charity.

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